

A  
L E T T E R

FROM

The Secretary of the Honourable the Directors  
of the East India Company,

TO

Major General JAMES STUART.

[16th July, 1784.]



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S I R,

**I**N answer to your Letter of the 27th of May, addressed to the Court of Directors of the East India Company, I am commanded to inform you, That although they feel some impropriety in the style and manner in which your requisitions are made, yet, considering your situation, they forbear making any remarks thereon; but they cannot refrain from expressing their surprize at your so solemnly declaring yourself ignorant of the causes which produced your dismissal from the service of the Company in India, the subsequent arrest of your person, and the measures afterwards adopted, to send you from Madras to England.

The Court of Directors observed, That the charges of misconduct were made in Minutes of their President Lord Macartney, replied to in Minutes by yourself, who appear to have been present in person when the motion for dismissing you from the service passed, with the unanimous approbation of every other Member of the Select Committee; and that an order was given, after the arrest of your person, for furnishing you with copies of those Papers, which, antecedent to your dismissal, must have been open to your inspection as a Member of the Select Committee.

When you recollect your subsequent claim to the command of his Majesty's troops in India, independent of the Company's Government; the disposition expressed by some Officers of high rank to countenance this claim; your own declared opinion, That you was entitled to the command likewise of the Forces of the Company: The Court of Directors think you cannot be at a loss to discover the reasons for the conduct of the Select Committee: They are persuaded, that under such circumstances, you must allow, that the Select Committee had great ground for alarm, and might be induced to think, as they have stated in their resolution, that the confinement of your person was  
necessary

necessary to preserve peace and order in the Settlement, and, perhaps, the existence of the Government.

The Court of Directors do not conceive that you can want information relative either to the measures taken by the Select Committee at Madras, or the motives which induced those measures: They have nevertheless commanded me to transmit to you the following Papers, and to inform you, that whenever you shall think it necessary to apply for any other specific Papers, they will take your application into consideration, with every disposition to a reasonable compliance with your requests.

The Papers now sent are,

1. Proceedings of the President and Select Committee of Fort Saint George upon your dismissal.
2. Resolution and orders for your arrest.
3. Lieutenant Gomond's Report of executing those orders.
4. Resolution for sending you to England.
5. Instructions for that purpose given to the Town Major, and to the Captain of the Packet.

With respect to the other requests contained in your Letter, I am commanded by the Court of Directors to say, That it appears to them unbecoming their situation to render an account of their conduct to any individual, much less can they suspend the measures which the public interest may require. At the same time they wish to add, that as previous to the order for your dismissal which they were under the painful necessity of transmitting to India, before intelligence arrived that the same measure had been adopted by the Select Committee at Madras, they were solicitous to obtain from your Brother every information which could direct their judgment; so they will always be thankful for every communication which may enable them to execute the trust reposed in them with best advantage to the Company, and to the State.

I am, SIR,

Your most obedient humble servant,

EAST INDIA HOUSE,  
July 16, 1784.

(Signed) THO<sup>s</sup>. MORTON, Secretary.

